United Nations A/C.5/60/SR.30

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
27 January 2006

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 30th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 14 December 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Saizonou (Vice-Chairman) (Benin)
Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

Contents

Agenda item 124: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Agenda item 136: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

2005 World Summit Outcome

Revised estimates to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 under sections 1, 2, 3, 11, 16, 23, 28A, 28C, 28D, 28E, 28F and 29

Revised estimates to the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

Agenda item 124: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Section 29: Office of Internal Oversight Services

Other matters

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

05-64137 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda), Mr. Saizonou (Benin), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 124: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Agenda item 136: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

2005 World Summit Outcome

Revised estimates to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 under sections 1, 2, 3, 11, 16, 23, 28A, 28C, 28D, 28E, 28F and 29 (A/60/7/Add.13 and Corr.1 and A/60/537)

Revised estimates to the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 (A/60/7/Add.13 and Corr.1 and A/60/537)

Agenda item 124: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Section 29: Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/60/7/Add.14)

1. **Mr. Sach** (Controller), introducing the Secretary-General's report on the World Summit Outcome, revised estimates to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 under the relevant sections and to the support account for peacekeeping operations, contained in document A/60/537, recalled that a statement of the related programme budget implications had previously been submitted to the General Assembly in document A/60/355, in connection with the adoption of its resolution 60/1 entitled "2005 World Summit Outcome".

2. At that time, the Assembly had been informed that it would receive a detailed statement of programme budget implications for consideration in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 and the support account. The Assembly had also been informed that the estimated total requirements arising from the draft resolution were approximately $80 million. The revised estimates currently before the Committee set forth in detail the changes that would need to be made to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, as presented in A/60/6, as well as to the support account for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, in order to implement the actions foreseen in General Assembly resolution 60/1.

3. The revised estimates did not include changes or resource requirements for actions that would require further study or of which the Assembly remained seized, including the Human Rights Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and recommendations arising from reviews relating to oversight and to the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Overall resource requirements arising from the 2005 World Summit Outcome were currently estimated at $75.4 million, comprising an increase of $73.3 million under the regular budget for the biennium 2006-2007, including the addition of 200 new posts, and of $2.1 million under the peacekeeping support account for the period 1 January to 30 June 2006, including the addition of 27 new posts.

4. The breakdown of the additional requirements by budget sections was summarized in chapter IV of the report. With respect to the peacekeeping support account, the 2005 World Summit had endorsed the creation of an initial operating capability for a standing police capacity. The proposed additional requirements for that capacity were estimated at $2.1 million, providing for an additional 27 posts, including 25 Professional and 2 General Service posts, as set forth in table 47 of the report. The revised estimates before the Committee comprehensively addressed resource requirements on the basis of all information currently available. Requirements for the issues still under consideration by the Assembly would be sought in due course.

5. **Mr. Saha** (Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)) said that the Secretary-General's report was marked by a number of shortcomings, which, though understandable in view of time constraints, had made the Advisory Committee's task difficult. The subsequent issuance of a related report (A/60/568) had further complicated its work. Once again, a piecemeal approach was being taken to an important issue, since at least some of the implications of the Summit Outcome required further consideration by intergovernmental bodies and/or further review or elaboration by the Secretariat. As the Advisory

Committee had stated many times, the consideration of multiple reports on the same subject made it extremely difficult to determine a clear path forward.

6. The revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General could not be considered as comprehensive, and the Secretary-General should be requested to prepare a follow-up report for submission to the General Assembly as soon as possible, and not later than the conclusion of the main part of the Assembly's sixty-first session. The report should provide a comprehensive analysis of the resources necessary to implement the actions mandated by the 2005 World Summit in the light of any subsequent decisions taken by the Assembly.

7. Regrettably, the estimates given in the report lacked convincing evidence that efforts had been made to accommodate new and expanded mandates through a redeployment of resources. The calculation of additional requirements should have taken fully into account the potential for carrying out new or different tasks and activities without requesting additional resources. That potential should have been analysed, even on the basis of existing mandates and prior to the review of all mandates older than five years mentioned in paragraph 160 of the Secretary-General's report.

8. Another major issue was the question of the use of the contingency fund. General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 were landmarks in the planning, programming and budgeting governance of the Organization, and had stood the test of time. Under the circumstances, options for dealing with the issue should have been thoroughly analysed. As mentioned in the conclusion of the Advisory Committee's report (A/60/7/Add.13), the General Assembly might wish to decide that procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund should be strictly applied, without exception. In that case, the Assembly would have to provide guidance to the Secretary-General on how the provisions governing the contingency fund should be applied. Alternatively, the Assembly might decide, as proposed by the Secretary-General, that revised estimates resulting from the Summit Outcome should be considered outside the established procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund. In that event, it should be specifically stipulated that a precedent would not thereby be created for the consideration of the financial implications of future legislative actions.

9. Chapter II of the Advisory Committee's report contained detailed observations and recommendations on the revised estimates, by budget section. In keeping with past practice and rule 157 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure, the Advisory Committee had decided that the Secretary-General's report required the same in-depth, line-by-line examination traditionally accorded to the programme budget itself.

10. There were a number of major proposals under budget section 1, the first of which concerned the establishment of an ethics office. The relevant recommendations and observations had been made on the understanding that they might be subject to further review and revision in the light of any action that might be taken by the General Assembly on the Secretary-General's proposals contained in document A/60/568.

11. The requirement of ethical conduct should have been evident since the Secretariat's inception. The leadership and direction provided by the Secretary-General and his responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations for the administration of the staff, as well as the obligations assumed by staff when they took their oaths of office, made adherence to strict ethical conduct obligatory. The Advisory Committee's recommendations on staffing and other requirements for an ethics office took into account the Secretary-General's primacy in that area, the considerable efforts already being made by existing Secretariat units, the fact that much of the office's workload would initially be outsourced and the fact that it was not yet possible to predict that workload.

12. Resource requirements for the independent oversight advisory committee should not be considered until the General Assembly had taken decisions on issues such as the committee's mandate and composition, the process to be used for selecting its experts and the qualifications required of the experts.

13. Under budget section 2, the Secretary-General proposed additional resources of more than $7 million for conference management. In that connection, the Advisory Committee proposed that the General Assembly should either defer consideration of the amount and request a resubmission based on any future decisions it might take on the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council, or decide that such additional resources as

might be necessary should be reflected in the relevant performance report(s) for the biennium 2006-2007.

14. With respect to the proposals under section 3, the concept behind the establishment of a mediation support unit should be further developed, taking into account overall capacity in the Secretariat. The Advisory Committee's recommendations on posts reflected that view. As the General Assembly had not yet concluded negotiations on arrangements for the Peacebuilding Commission, it should defer consideration of related resource requirements until a statement of programme budget implications had been issued.

15. The Advisory Committee would have been helped in its consideration of proposals under section 11 if a comprehensive system-wide plan had been elaborated reflecting all elements of paragraph 68 of the Summit Outcome. The Secretary-General's proposals under section 16 were affected by the fact that he intended to submit proposals to the General Assembly and the Security Council by early 2006 to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system to assist States in combating terrorism and to enhance the coordination of related United Nations activities. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee had recommended that the Assembly should defer consideration of the new posts proposed for the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

16. Under section 23, Human rights, the Secretary-General proposed an additional $24.2 million, including 93 new posts. The Advisory Committee recommended the establishment of most of the posts requested, with the major exception of the Assistant Secretary-General post in the New York office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and four posts for the *Global Human Rights Report*, the concept for which had not, in the Advisory Committee's view, been adequately set out.

17. As to the various proposals under section 28, it would be prudent to await the results of a comprehensive review of governance arrangements before establishing an office of fraud prevention. The Advisory Committee did not recommend approval of the request for more than $500,000 for the ethics training programme, under section 28C, and requested that the matter should be included and further elaborated upon in the requested comprehensive follow-up report.

18. The reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee under sections 28, subsections D, E and F, were consequential to other recommendations for reductions in staff. For the reasons given in paragraph 64 of its report, the Advisory Committee recommended that requirements for the standing police capacity should be reflected in the proposed budget for the support account for 2006/07.

19. If accepted by the Fifth Committee, the recommendations set out in the Advisory Committee's report would result in a total reduction of $25.5 million gross from the additional $73.4 million proposed by the Secretary-General, including the related impact on operational and other non-staff costs in addition to the specific recommendations on non-staff costs.

20. The Advisory Committee was treating estimates for the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) separately, as explained in its related report, (A/60/7/Add.14.) With respect to the initial budget, the Advisory Committee recommended that, pending a resubmission of the budget proposal for OIOS, resources equivalent to the revised level of the 2004-2005 provision should be approved. With respect to the revised estimates, in view of the status of the initial estimates and the comprehensive review of OIOS currently under way, 39 general temporary assistance positions should be authorized, pending consideration of a comprehensive budget proposal. Amounts requested for consultants should be deferred.

21. **Mr. Longhurst** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said it was essential that any budget approved by the Committee should make provision for the proposals set out in the Secretary-General's report (A/60/537). The European Union had noted that in some cases ACABQ had recommended that the Assembly should defer the approval of resource requests pending the submission of further information or decisions by the Assembly, and would bear its recommendations in mind when considering the proposed programme budget for 2006-2007. However, the General Assembly had been mandated by world leaders to act on the decision they had taken in September 2005 to strengthen the United Nations. Therefore, while it would not be possible to take decisions on all the Secretary-General's proposals before the end of the main part of the Assembly's

sixtieth session, it was nevertheless crucial that Member States should demonstrate their collective will to move forward expeditiously. The European Union believed that a successful outcome was possible, and stood ready to work to that end.

22. **Mr. Hall** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group shared the concerns expressed by ACABQ regarding the pressure of time and the danger of not giving proper consideration to the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/60/537), and had noted in particular the comments in paragraph 7 of its report (A/60/7/Add.13) to the effect that the document was not totally coherent.

23. The Group wished to reaffirm the importance it attached to the early consideration of the follow-up to the Summit Outcome, and noted with concern that some of the proposals in the Secretary-General's report addressed issues that related not to the Outcome but to older, existing mandates. The Group would examine only those proposals that were related to the Summit Outcome. With regard to the treatment of the revised estimates and the two options proposed by ACABQ in paragraph 67 of its report, the Group believed that the revised estimates were not part of the budget itself, and should be viewed as a supplementary budget.

24. With regard to the letter from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/60/19), the Group was willing to meet the deadline of 19 December requested for the completion of the Committee's deliberations on the Secretary-General's proposals. In that regard, the Group wished to reiterate its earlier request that conference services should be provided for night and weekend meetings. The Group was ready to conclude the Committee's work during the main part of the sixtieth session, and the only way to do so was to schedule additional conference services.

25. **Mr. Taula** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, said that the reports of the Secretary-General and of ACABQ were particularly important because they allowed the Committee to move forward in implementing key aspects of the agreements reached by world leaders at the September 2005 World Summit, while making clear that other aspects remained to be presented, and because the revised estimates provided a comprehensive picture of the Organization's resource requirements for the coming biennium.

26. The Advisory Committee had been right to focus on issues of immediate importance and to avoid prejudging the results of work still under way in the General Assembly. As noted in the Advisory Committee's report, further budgetary revisions would need to be presented as soon as possible, in the light of any decisions taken by the Assembly on reform and other aspects of the Summit Outcome.

27. The revised estimates reflected important proposals concerning ethical conduct and oversight. He wished to record his overall support for the Secretary-General's approach and to reiterate his support for the immediate establishment of an ethics office with the functions described by the Secretary-General.

28. He was broadly comfortable with the recommendations of ACABQ on the Secretary-General's various resource proposals, with two exceptions. First, he supported the Secretary-General's resource request for the establishment of a peacebuilding support office, which did not depend entirely on the General Assembly's decisions concerning the Peacebuilding Commission. Second, as the standing police capacity proposal had been clearly mandated and developed in close cooperation with the relevant experts, he saw no reason to delay its creation unnecessarily. The enlargement of the capacity of OHCHR was a priority which responded to one of the most precise mandates in the Summit Outcome. However, the Assembly must decide whether the baseline for the envisaged doubling of regular budget resources should be 2004-2005 or 2006-2007.

29. He strongly supported initiatives to increase the capacity of OIOS and ensure its operational independence. While he expected a comprehensive plan of action to flow from the external review of oversight, there was a pressing need to bolster the Office's audit and investigation capacity, as recognized at the 2005 World Summit. The fraud prevention and anti-corruption functions proposed by the Secretary-General were necessary, even though they were not directly related to the Summit Outcome. It was important to gain a clear idea of how work in that area would proceed.

30. The question of how to finance the revised estimates was very important. He was a strong advocate of the discipline imposed by the contingency

fund rules contained in General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, but the Secretary-General had noted in his report that the rules did not provide for the current circumstances. In general terms, greater efforts should have been made to meet new requirements through reallocation. He was therefore ready to join other delegations in exploring fully the opportunities for such redeployment, but the clear priority was to put into effect the decisions taken at the 2005 World Summit, even if full absorption was not possible.

31. **Ms. Skaare** (Norway) said that her delegation was fully committed to the reforms aimed at making the Organization more effective, accountable and credible. Important decisions in that regard had been taken at the 2005 World Summit, and it was now the responsibility of Member States to implement them. Before they had adopted the Summit Outcome, Heads of State and Government had been informed that implementing the reforms would cost approximately $80 million. It was important that Member States should abide by their commitments and appropriate the necessary funding, as the reform process would otherwise be delayed. Norway therefore encouraged all Member States to negotiate on the revised estimates in a constructive manner with a view to obtaining an adequate 2006-2007 programme budget before the end of the year.

32. **Mr. Hassani Nejad Pirkouhi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that he agreed with the comment made by ACABQ to the effect that the consideration of multiple reports on the same subject made it difficult to formulate a clear path forward. Moreover, it appeared that some elements of the Secretary-General's report on the revised estimates would be overtaken by events and would have to be revisited at a later date. ACABQ also rightly noted that in a number of instances there was a need for further legislative decision-making or further elaboration and clarification by the Secretariat. His delegation agreed with ACABQ that as the legislative process in respect of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council had not yet been completed, it would be premature to consider resource requirements for those entities.

33. With respect to the proposals under budget section 23, Human rights, he recalled that new posts should be created only for the purpose of fulfilling specific functions. In the context of the proposal to double the resources of OHCHR, 93 additional posts had been proposed, and it was the prerogative of the Fifth Committee to evaluate the functions to be carried out by the staff recruited for those new posts, in line with the principles of results-based budgeting, according to which the budget was the vehicle for attaining the objectives of a given programme. Merely increasing resources would be more reminiscent of input budgeting, which had been abandoned years earlier.

34. The Committee should also ensure that the additional requirements programme of work under section 23 were in line with approved mandates in an area as sensitive as human rights, in accordance with normal programming procedures. Indeed, there were grounds for caution with respect to the proper implementation of procedures. For example, reference was made under section 23 to the High Commissioner's plan of action as one of the activities to be carried out by OHCHR during the biennium. However, the plan of action had merely been noted, not endorsed, by the General Assembly. Furthermore, the report referred to her reports of the Secretary-General which had not yet been endorsed by the Assembly and thus did not constitute a mandate for OHCHR; the reference to the role of OHCHR in conflict prevention (A/60/537, para. 74) was one example. The programme of work in the area of human rights should be strengthened through a balanced approach aimed at ensuring the implementation of all activities under section 23 and not focusing on one area at the expense of others.

35. With regard to the revised resource estimates, a progressive balance should be pursued between regular-budget and extrabudgetary resources for human rights activities, as indicated in the Summit Outcome. His delegation agreed that achieving such a balance did not necessarily require growth in regular-budget resources and that the option of converting certain extrabudgetary posts to regular-budget posts should be borne in mind in that regard.

36. His delegation agreed with the comments of ACABQ concerning the capacity and scope of the New York office of OHCHR. The establishment of an Assistant Secretary-General post in the New York office should not be considered until the feasibility study had been completed and OHCHR had a clearer picture of its structural needs and the functions envisaged for the office.

37. With regard to the funding of the additional resource requirements, the Committee could take the same course of action it had adopted in June 2004 for the revised estimates deriving from safety and security needs following the adoption of the 2004-2005 programme budget. Lastly, as the revised estimates currently before the Committee could not be approved until the programme budget for 2006-2007 was adopted, he called on all delegations to spare no effort to reach agreement on the proposed programme budget by the end of the main part of the sixtieth session.

38. **Ms. Shah** (United States of America) said that the time had come to reshape the United Nations. Management reform was essential to the successful implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and all Member States must work together to take the necessary steps to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization and strengthen its accountability. The United States welcomed the Secretary-General's proposals on the creation of an ethics office, the conduct of an independent external evaluation of auditing and oversight capacity and the creation of an independent oversight advisory committee, and looked forward to further discussion of those matters and to the full implementation of all the reforms called for in the Summit Outcome. Her delegation would be grateful for further information from the Advisory Committee as to why it had recommended reducing the resources allocated for the creation of an ethics office.

39. **Ms. Zobrist Rentenaar** (Switzerland) acknowledged that the Secretary-General's report (A/60/537) was not totally coherent, but pointed out that there had been no feasible alternative, given the time constraints. The programme budget implications arising from the adoption of the 2005 World Summit Outcome had originally been estimated at $80 million, and it was now time for Member States to honour their commitments by providing the necessary funding. It had always been Switzerland's understanding that the resource requirements arising from the Summit Outcome would not be met from within existing resources or be subject to the rules governing the use of the contingency fund.

40. The ethics office should be established without delay. While she shared many of the views expressed by the Advisory Committee, it should be possible to agree on a compromise. With regard to the independent oversight advisory committee, for the moment Switzerland would prefer to adopt preliminary terms of reference and approve a provisional budget.

41. She was prepared to accept the recommendation to defer consideration of the additional resources for conference management for the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council, particularly since the request for $4 million for the Council had not been properly justified. She would be grateful for further information in that respect. Switzerland supported the establishment of a small peacebuilding support office and would be willing to consider the related resource requirements at the appropriate time.

42. As the Advisory Committee had observed, the proposed additional requirements for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) were inadequate. A comprehensive system-wide plan on all activities pertinent to the special needs of Africa would be helpful for further deliberations on that subject.

43. She was willing to accept the Advisory Committee's recommendations on section 29; Human rights. Since strengthening the New York office of OHCHR was a priority for Switzerland, she was awaiting with interest the results of the planned feasibility study and the subsequent consideration of the proposal to establish an Assistant Secretary-General post for New York. Switzerland would also like to act swiftly on the independent external evaluation of the auditing and oversight system, including the related budgetary requirements, and trusted that the established practice for international bidding would be fully respected.

44. Lastly, in document A/60/7/Add.14, the Advisory Committee had recommended that, pending a resubmission of the budget proposal for OIOS, resources equivalent to the revised level of the 2004-2005 provision, recosted for 2006-2007, should be provided. Although that course of action was not ideal, her delegation was prepared to accept it, bearing in mind the recent change at the helm of OIOS and the fact that a comprehensive review of the Office was under way. In addition, her delegation welcomed the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the Assembly should authorize the establishment of 39 additional temporary posts to strengthen the audit and investigation capacity of OIOS. Given the temporary nature of those posts, there should be a certain degree

of flexibility in terms of their distribution within the Office.

45. **Mr. Kozaki** (Japan) said that Japan attached great importance to the expeditious and steady implementation of the Summit Outcome, in particular those provisions relating to Secretariat and management reform. Since the Advisory Committee's recommendations would reduce the revised estimates by some $25.5 million, he would like to analyse resource requirements individually, taking into account the status of implementation of reform recommendations in the respective departments and offices and also bearing in mind the need for consistency with the Summit Outcome.

46. Referring to the report contained in document A/60/568, he said that the progress made by the end of 2005 in the implementation of Secretariat and management reform, including the establishment of the ethics office, the strengthening of the expertise, capacity and resources of OIOS, the establishment of an independent oversight advisory committee and the submission of proposals designed to provide guidance on mandate review, should be reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2006-2007.

47. Japan supported the review of OIOS, but did not regard it as a prerequisite for the strengthening of that Office, which was a matter of urgency and had been specifically requested in paragraph 164 (a) of the Summit Outcome. Accordingly, the Committee could not defer consideration of that issue until May 2006. The necessary resources must be included in the proposed programme budget for 2006-2007 and any upward or downward adjustments should be based on the outcome of the external review. Japan fully endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal for significantly strengthening the expertise and capacity of OIOS.

48. **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Argentina) said that the consideration of the revised estimates gave the General Assembly an opportunity to rapidly implement some of the reforms set out in the Summit Outcome. Other proposals, such as those relating to the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council, had not yet been finalized, and any additional resources relating thereto would have to be considered in the context of the performance reports for 2006-2007.

49. With regard to the proposed ethics office, his delegation understood both the need for its creation and the importance of minimizing unnecessary expenditure. As far as the peacebuilding support office was concerned, the General Assembly should make the necessary resources available to the Secretary-General.

50. A plan to meet the special needs of Africa must be developed without delay, in accordance with paragraph 68 of the Summit Outcome. In addition, sufficient resources should be provided to finance the post of Special Adviser on Africa. In the Summit Outcome, the Assembly had also invited the Secretary-General to submit proposals to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system to assist States in combating terrorism; the Assembly should therefore take the appropriate measures in that regard.

51. Argentina fully supported the decision to double the resources allocated to OHCHR over the forthcoming five years. In that regard, the Secretariat's proposal was well-founded and provided a good basis for achieving the objectives of improving technical assistance and capacity-building in the area of human rights. Lastly, the resources needed to establish a standing police capacity for peacekeeping operations must be provided.

52. **Mr. Yoo** Dae-jong (Republic of Korea) said that the Committee's deliberations on the revised estimates and on the proposed programme budget itself had been further complicated by the fact that the Secretary-General's report was not totally coherent. However, all delegations must show maximum flexibility in the face of those difficulties, particularly since budget matters were time-bound. In spite of the pressure of time and a heavy workload, the Fifth Committee must work with the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee in order to adopt the proposed programme budget for 2006-2007 and implement the reform measures set out in the Summit Outcome as quickly as possible.

53. Excluding the pending requirements for the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council and oversight capacity, the additional resource requirements arising from the Summit Outcome amounted to some $75.5 million. The Advisory Committee had made recommendations entailing a reduction of some $25 million, and his delegation therefore wondered whether a serious effort had been made to accommodate new and expanded mandates through the redeployment of existing resources.

54. Since the estimated additional requirements far exceeded the level of the contingency fund, the

Secretary-General had suggested that the General Assembly might wish to set aside the provisions of its resolution 42/211 for the purposes of implementing the Summit Outcome. In that connection, the Republic of Korea had taken note of the Advisory Committee's observation that that issue and options for dealing with it should have been thoroughly analysed.

55. **Ms. Buergo Rodriguez** (Cuba) reiterated Cuba's commitment to adopting the proposed programme budget for 2006-2007 by the end of 2005, but stressed the importance of devoting sufficient time to the consideration of the revised estimates. There were no specific deadlines for approving proposals arising from the Summit Outcome, and the Committee should not take decisions in haste, although it could certainly act promptly on matters on which all the necessary information had already been provided.

56. Referring to the Secretary-General's report (A/60/537), she expressed concern about the resource requests relating to section 23, Human rights, and reiterated her delegation's reservations about the decision to double the resources of OHCHR over the forthcoming five years (paragraph 124 of the Summit Outcome). That provision gave priority to one area of the work of the United Nations at the expense of the others. Moreover, some of the new posts proposed did not correspond to specific mandates from the General Assembly.

57. Lastly, with regard to the question of whether the contingency fund should be used to meet the additional resource requirements arising from the Summit Outcome, Cuba favoured an approach similar to the one adopted the previous year to deal with the additional requirements for safety and security.

58. **Mr. Simancas** (Mexico) observed that paragraph 48 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/60/7/Add.13) referred to support for six human rights treaty bodies. However, since its establishment by the Economic and Social Council in 1985, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had also been regarded as a treaty body. He therefore wished to know whether the support referred to in the ACABQ report would also be provided to that Committee.

59. In view of the need to take swift action on the revised estimates, he was surprised that the Secretary-General's report (A/60/537), which had been issued on 3 November 2005, had only just reached the Fifth Committee. That situation did not contribute to the successful implementation of the Summit Outcome, nor did the submission of multiple reports on the same subject, as noted by the Advisory Committee.

60. **Ms. Udo** (Nigeria) said that her delegation welcomed the opportunity to discuss the implications of the decisions taken at the 2005 World Summit, which had been a landmark event. It was committed to comprehensive United Nations reform and would approach the negotiations with a positive attitude. While it would like to have had more time to study the reports under consideration, it understood the time constraints facing the Committee.

61. Her delegation endorsed the Advisory Committee's comments on the Secretary-General's proposals with regard to United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The development of Africa was one of the Organization's priorities. However, that priority had not been translated into action, nor was it adequately reflected in the allocation of resources. A more concerted effort was required to ensure that Africa achieved the goals of the Millennium Declaration by 2015, so that it could enter the mainstream of the world economy. In that connection, the proposals before the Committee should be reviewed, and the Secretary-General should elaborate in the near future a comprehensive system-wide plan in response to all the elements of paragraph 68 of the Summit Outcome, incorporating not only NEPAD but also other relevant United Nations entities with activities pertinent to the Organization's role in meeting the special needs of Africa. Lastly, her delegation looked forward to working with others to achieve a speedy conclusion to the Committee's deliberations.

62. **Mr. Brant** (Brazil) said that his delegation attached great importance to United Nations support for NEPAD and welcomed the decision to double the regular budget resources of OHCHR over the next five years.

63. **Mr. Elji** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, in examining the Secretary-General's proposals, his delegation would be guided by its understanding of the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Regrettably, the late issuance of the Secretary-General's report (A/60/537) would prevent the Committee from giving it detailed consideration. His delegation viewed the report as an addendum to the proposed programme budget for the

biennium 2006-2007 and expected that it would be considered in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly regarding administrative and budgetary questions. Some priorities of the United Nations, including support for NEPAD, were not sufficiently reflected in the Secretary-General's proposals, which could not therefore be regarded as balanced. In that connection, he emphasized that his delegation would not accept any attempt to blackmail the Organization and Member States by making the adoption of the proposed programme budget conditional on the implementation of certain reforms; the reforms implemented must reflect the interests of all.

64. His delegation was not convinced of the need for an independent oversight advisory committee or for the allocation of any resources for that purpose at the current stage, since the matter was still before the General Assembly. Likewise, no appropriation should be made for the Peacebuilding Commission or the Human Rights Council, since the details of their establishment had not yet been worked out. His delegation would seek additional information in informal consultations regarding the resources requested under sections 3 and 16 of the proposed programme budget. With regard to section 23 (Human rights), the purpose of doubling the regular budget resources of OHCHR over the next five years was to set a balance between regular-budget and voluntary contributions to the Office's resources. In that context, a number of posts currently funded from extrabudgetary resources were to be converted to regular-budget posts. The Secretary-General, however, had also requested several new posts, and his delegation wondered how that request could be justified.

65. His delegation would put the remainder of its questions in informal consultations, so as to allow more time for discussion. It hoped that such flexibility would enable the Committee to adopt a programme budget covering the whole biennium.

66. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) said, with regard to United Nations support for NEPAD, that, should the General Assembly endorse the recommendation contained in paragraph 37 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/60/7/Add.13), the Secretary-General would elaborate a comprehensive system-wide plan, as requested by ACABQ, and report thereon to the Assembly as soon as possible and no later than the main part of the sixty-first session. If the report was required within a shorter time frame, Member States might wish to give the Secretariat a specific mandate to that effect.

67. The Administration always sought to accommodate additional requirements within existing resources. However, there was little capacity for absorption at the current stage of the budget cycle. In preparing the proposed programme budget, the Administration had carefully considered opportunities for redeploying resources and offsetting expenditure. It had produced a zero-growth budget, in which some 240 posts had been identified for redeployment. In order to find resources to fund the additional requirements, it would be necessary to underfund some existing mandates. In that connection, he recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 56/253, had emphasized that the resources proposed by the Secretary-General should be commensurate with all mandated programmes and activities in order to ensure their full, efficient and effective implementation.

68. The additional resource request for OHCHR was made on the basis of paragraph 124 of the Summit Outcome, in which the General Assembly resolved to strengthen the Office by doubling its regular budget resources. The status of the High Commissioner's plan of action was therefore not relevant.

69. The Administration felt that the issue of the use of the contingency fund was political rather than technical and, as such, should be settled by a decision of the General Assembly. The arrangements set out in resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 had served the Organization well. Member States needed to find language that reflected the spirit of those resolutions, while ensuring that the additional requirements arising from the Summit Outcome were fully funded.

70. Lastly, those delegations that had described the revised estimates as lacking coherence should bear in mind that the Secretariat had to respond to events as they developed. General Assembly resolution 60/1 gave only an indication of Member States' wishes, and negotiations on the follow-up to the Summit Outcome were ongoing. The situation was chaotic, and the Secretariat would welcome efforts by the Committee to bring order to it.

71. **Mr. Elji** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that it was still not clear to his delegation why the Secretariat had requested the establishment of new posts for OHCHR.

72. **Ms. Udo** (Nigeria) said it was her understanding that a number of reports on the follow-up to the Summit Outcome were to be submitted in the first quarter of 2006. The Secretary-General's report on NEPAD should also be submitted at that time, so that the General Assembly would have a more complete picture of the actions to be taken.

73. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa) said that her delegation wished to associate itself with the statements made by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the representatives of Nigeria and Brazil. It shared the concern expressed by previous speakers about the adequacy of the resources requested for United Nations support for NEPAD and supported the proposal just made regarding the timing of the submission of the Secretary-General's report. It hoped that, in the meantime, there would be an opportunity for the Committee to consider ways of increasing the level of resources proposed.

74. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) said that some of the posts requested for OHCHR were new posts, while others were posts currently funded from voluntary contributions; a number of extrabudgetary posts were to be abolished. The Secretary-General's proposals were in line with paragraph 124 of resolution 60/1. He would convey the request made regarding the report on NEPAD to the offices concerned.

75. **The Chairman** said that the Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee would reply to delegations' questions in informal consultations.

Other matters

76. **Mr. Elji** (Syrian Arab Republic), noting that asbestos abatement was being carried out in the vicinity of Conference Rooms 5 and 6, expressed concern that the area was not properly sealed off. He asked what hazards that might pose to human health and urged the offices concerned to ensure that proper precautions were taken.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.